

# General Membership Meetings

## Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:**     **October 6 & November 3, 2016**  
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:**           **October 20 & November 17, 2016**  
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:**       **October 25, 2016 - 7:30 p.m.**  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
**November 18, 2016- 7:30 p.m.**  
Grand Rapids Union Hall  
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids
- Great River :**     **October 13 & November 10, 2016**  
6:00 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall



### Local 160 Phone Ext. *Ext.*

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Stacy - Ext. 102 | Ami - 101         |
| Kurt - Ext. 105  | Rose - Ext. 103   |
| Mike - Ext. 108  | Shari - Ext. 104  |
| Bob - Ext. 109   | Tom C. - Ext. 106 |
|                  | Dan - Ext. 205    |
|                  | Jon - Ext. 125    |

Minneapolis Tel # (612) 781-3126  
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## **From the Editor**

Rose M Eiden

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, & the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Local Union does not guarantee that contents of the publication are correct, & statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Local Union #160.

Local Union 160 website will be getting a new look soon. One of the improvements is you will be able to access this on the mobile app.

Mark Ring (Local 160 Executive Board member), Bob Boogren and myself have been working on this with Esultants for the last few months and looking forward to the improvements.



L to R: John Dunbar, Bill Cort Joe Diethelm, Lineman from East Central Energy.

John, Bill and Joe ran a half marathon (13 1/2 miles) on August 20th to help prepare for the Twin Cities Marathon. All three are proud union members and wore their Local Union 160 safety shirts. Thanks guys and good luck in the Twin Cities Marathon.

## **LOCAL UNION 160'S RETIREMENT CLUB.**

All retirees from Local Union 160 are invited on the fourth Wednesday of every month (with the exception of November and December because of the holidays) to meet at Local 160's union hall in St. Anthony. The President Pete Sandberg sets up a guest speaker and after that a very good lunch will be served by some wonderful retirees. You can join this club for \$15.00 a year. Just come to the hall on October 26th and sign up to get on the mailing list for a reminder postcard to be sent out to you for future meetings.

**PIG ROAST - SEPTEMBER 29,  
2016 FROM 11:00 - 8:00.**  
**Hope to see you here.**

## A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary

As we age, it is amazing how time seems to speed up. It's hard to believe September is here already. I have been your Business Manager for a year now and it has been quite a learning curve and has had many challenges.

My staff and myself are committed to making this the best IBEW local. To do that we need your help. Our members are among the best trained, most qualified people in the workforce. Unfortunately, some don't exercise good judgement all the time, and our employers are becoming much less tolerant of misconduct. We need to give them a full day's work for our pay.

Recently with the changes in the office there have been some emails, texts, rumors, and fabricated stories about how the business office is going to take away medical and retirement benefits for some members. Nothing could be further from the truth. As you all are aware of any contract/benefit change is voted on by the members not just arbitrarily changed.

We are all part of 160, it doesn't matter which agreement you work under it's time to put aside all the petty differences and perceived slights and work together to increase our membership and market share.

In solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren

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### Cooperative Effort

On July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of this year a severe storm of high wind and rain hit a large part of Xcel Energy's service area including Wright-Hennepin Cooperative area and proceeded in a southeasterly direction.

Xcel Energy sustained heavy outages starting northwest of Rogers, more through the metro and proceeded toward Red Wing.

Xcel reported 250,000 services out of power; Xcel proceeded to enlist all available help possible, including all Mo-Valley contractors.

As memory serves for the first time, the Rural Electric Cooperative of Minnesota did not receive storm damage, volunteered to send men and equipment to assist in the restoration effort and Xcel management welcomed their offer.

At the peak of the restoration effort it was reported to be 800 line personnel working with crews traveling from as far as Missouri, Illinois and Colorado.

By Saturday, July 9th the vast majority of the outages were restored.

Thank you to all who responded to the call for help and for a job well done.



## Does it Pay to Work Union? Yes. And Here's Proof

From IBEW MEDIA CENTER - August 25, 2016

**A new study says union construction members in Minnesota get \$5.59 back in income for every \$1 they pay in union dues.**

The findings come in a new analysis from the **Midwest Economic Policy Institute**, which found that union construction members paid a yearly average of \$1,381 in union dues and fees, but that they made an extra \$7,720 after taxes over their nonunion counterparts. That was even before factoring in other benefits such as improved health care, pensions and the extra job satisfaction that comes with having a voice at work.

The figures reflect the broad range of union construction jobs and a highly variable pay scale that takes in data from all levels of skilled and unskilled trades, from electricians to laborers, journeymen to apprentices.

"These figures out of Minnesota reflect the sort of wage gap we see all over the U.S. and Canada," said IBEW Director of Construction Organizing Virgil Hamilton. "Every union electrician ought to be aware of the benefits their membership brings them, but it's useful to see the numbers laid out so clearly for people."

And it's not just union construction members who benefit from the strength of unions. The MEPI study points to more than 9,000 jobs in the state of Minnesota that are directly attributable either to labor organizations or to the higher spending power of the state's union families.

In all, MEPI finds an additional \$808.6 million boost to Minnesota's economy and another \$99.5 million in extra state tax revenue that would not exist without the union construction industry.

Not addressed by the study is the fact the IBEW electricians tend to do even better against their nonunion competition than members of many other building trades. "There's typically more of a difference between union and nonunion wages as you move higher up into the skilled trades," Hamilton said, so it's likely that our members are actually making even more than \$5.59 extra for every dollar in dues."

Nationally in 2015, union members in the construction industry made an average of **\$356 more** every week than their nonunion counterparts, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That works out to nearly \$19,000 more per year or a 47 percent pay difference over construction workers who don't belong to a union.

It's really rewarding to see these kind of studies," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "We're out there working hard every day for our members, and to be able to show them that their membership in the IBEW is an investment that pays off many times over tells us we're winning the battles that are important to their bottom line."

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### Top Causes of Unintentional Injury and Death in Homes and Communities

According to Injury Facts 2016, about 136,053 people died from unintentional-injury-related deaths in 2014. That's 136,053 times someone's ordinary day turned tragic.

Often, these tragedies happen when least expected - during a vacation, while doing chores at home or while driving across town. National Safety Council (NSC) encourages everyone to be aware of hazards related to leisure and recreational activities and take proper safety precautions. Here, in order, are the top causes of unintentional injury and death in homes and communities.

#1: Poisoning - Poisoning deaths are caused by gases, chemicals and other substances, but prescription drug overdose is by far the leading cause.

#2: Motor Vehicle Crashes

#3: Falls

#4: Choking and Suffocation

#5: Drowning

#6: Fires and Burns

#7: Natural and Environmental Incidents

To get more information on these go to: [www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledged/Pages/safety-at-home](http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledged/Pages/safety-at-home).



# URA UNION RETIREMENT ALLIANCE

HELPING MEMBERS RETIRE WITH CONFIDENCE

**Understand how 2016 Negotiations, GATT Rate, Stock Market Volatility, Health Care Costs and other potential changes can affect your Retirement Plan...**

The Advisors at Union Retirement Alliance are experts in Retirement Planning and have a Comprehensive understanding of your Pensions. Get assistance with the following Retirement Topics.

- Pension Options: Annuity & Lump Sum**
- 401k Investment Options**
- Complimentary Retirement Planning**
- Social Security & Health Care Options**
- Other Investment and Retirement Needs**

Contact Mark Reichow at Union Retirement Alliance with Questions or to schedule a Complimentary Face to Face Meeting.

**Phone: 612-239-4371 Email: [mark.reichow@lpl.com](mailto:mark.reichow@lpl.com)**

Securities offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC



**GATT RATE CHANGE**

As of 2014, the GATT rate calculations changed from November rates to August rates. This may bring up the following questions to address regarding pension and retirement planning:

**What is the new GATT Rate?**

**How does this interest rate affect my Pension Benefits?**

**Is this the right year for me to retire?**

**How do I plan for my retirement?**

Reach out to our office to discuss how this could effect you individually



**Your Retirement Team!**

**Office:** (651) 447-2235

**Email:** [Info@UAdvisors.com](mailto:Info@UAdvisors.com)

**Website:** [www.uadvisors.com](http://www.uadvisors.com)

*Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Great Valley Advisor Group, a registered investment advisor. IBEW 160, Great Valley Advisor Group, U Advisors and LPL Financial are separate entities.*

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Hello Sisters and Brothers, my name is Michael Ringstad. I am a new Outside Construction Business Representative.

Just to tell you a little bit about myself, I started in the electrical industry as a groundman/operator for a small non-union electrical contractor in my hometown. I went on to receive a diploma for the Electrical Lineman course at Wadena Vo Tech School.

I worked at Connexus Energy as an apprentice lineman at the time when they elected to go union. When I left Connexus Energy I went to work under the Mo Valley contract as a groundman until I was accepted into the Missouri Valley Apprenticeship Training. Late into my apprenticeship, I accepted a permanent benefit job with Xcel Energy as a lineman until Bob Boogren, Business Manager appointed me the new representative.

I have served the members of Local Union 160 by being an Executive Board Member, and Vice President for the last two election cycles.

### Funny Things Real Kids Have Said....

- ◆ When I was pregnant, my girlfriend's 3 year old asked me why I "ate my baby" - Sarah
- ◆ At church (we sit in the 2nd row), my 3 year old niece said in a very loud voice, "AGAIN???" when the pastor asked us to stand for the 4th time in just a few minutes. - Cyndie
- ◆ I teach first grade. We were discussing holidays when I reminded the students that some people don't celebrate Christmas, and was about to explain when one of my boys yelled out, "They celebrate Harmonica" I guess that IS pretty close to Hanukkah." - Jan
- ◆ When my oldest was 3 or so he announced to the daycare that he couldn't sleep at night because of all the noises coming from our bedroom. The daycare employees thought it was pretty funny. At supper that night, my hubby asked him what kind of noises they were. He matter of factly stated "snoring" - Heather
- ◆ The funniest thing I've heard so far is yesterday when I was telling my son that he might be having another brother instead of a sister, he said to me "God wouldn't do that because he knows you don't want another one of those" as he pointed to his younger brother. - Heidi
- ◆ This past summer while my 3 year old was waiting for the arrival of her first cousin she constantly asked if her baby cousin was born yet. One day she asked if her baby cousin was still in her aunt's belly or still cooking, when I replied that the baby was still cooking she yelled back with "well they better not keep her in too long or she'll be overcooked". - Katie B
- ◆ My older son, now 9, when we first went to Disney, we went because it was his birthday. When we were back home he says "mom, now that we own Disney, can we fire Eeyore, he is always so sad and he's gonna make my friends sad" when I asked him why he thought we own Disney he said; "didn't you hear? Everybody knows my name, only if you are the owner they should know their name, I'm the new boss". His name was on a birthday button he was wearing. - Xiomara
- ◆ The funniest thing I heard, was my nephew who, when his mom was pregnant, was walking hand in hand with me and patted tummy and said "you're a girl...so there is a baby in your tummy". His mom explained that that is how she told him she was pregnant. So I asked what was in his uncle's tummy...he replied "pizza"...love the innocence of childhood! - Shalon
- ◆ My daughter really wants us to have another baby, so she constantly has babies on the brain. One day we were talking about it, and she was saying how much she wants a baby sister. I told her that we don't have control over whether we get a boy or a girl. She looks at me and says, "so, is it God or Santa that decides?" - Jessica
- ◆ I overheard a little boy asking why Santa can't take his baby brother to be an elf helper because he doesn't help enough at home. - Katie
- ◆ When I tell my 3 year-old daughter to clean up her toys, she says "Mom, you better go ahead and do it. I don't know anyone who cleans up toys as good as you can." - Angelynn
- ◆ My 1st grader was learning about reptiles, mammals and amphibians at school. At the dinner table he blurts out "Uncle Dan and Chuck are reptiles." I asked him why he would say something like that and he says "We learned today that reptiles have no hair!" - Laura
- ◆ My 5 year old was sliding head first down the stairs (on purpose) and I told her to stop (for fear she would start somersaulting) and she got up and turns to look at me with her hands on her hips and says "why mom, am I freaking you out or what?" - Kathryn
- ◆ While on a road trip [years ago], my daughter insisted that her bottle of water tasted funny...I asked if it was a new bottle, she said yes. So I told her she didn't have to drink it, if she didn't want to. About 20 minutes later I hear her exclaim from the back seat, "OOOOOH THAT'S WHY! It says Spring water but it's Summer!" - Rachelle
- ◆ Well...it wasn't funny at the time, but my daughter and I were riding on the bus and a gentleman sat down in front of us. Never one to QUIETLY ask questions, my 4 year-old said, "MOM WHY does that man have a circle of skin in the middle of his hair?" - Julie

### LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Logan Anderson	Chad Becker
Chad Briggs	Dakota Butler
Joshua Cameron	Paul Chapman
Quinn Christenson	Michael Cook
Russ Edelman	Michael Erickson
Claudio Espinoza	Dale Franko
Dacota Gaffke	Luis Gomez
Seth Hagan	Shawn Huikko
Jamie Kulff	Jacob LaValley
Andy Mackereth	James Maxwell
Chad May	Travis McGaha
Douglas Miller	Zachary Nelson
Kaegen Nicholson	Ann Otto
Christopher Picotte	Justin Rogers
Angel Santana	Shilo Scherer
Peter Verhulst	Charles Wedde
Jed Wildeisen	James Wilkus
Michael Winfield	

Membership Count = 3115

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

- Scott Burkland - Xcel Energy
- Gerald Erickson - Agralite Electric
- Patrick Flahave - Great River Energy
- Michael Geagan - Mo Valley
- Reggie Greene - Mo Valley
- Randall Hinkemeyer - Xcel Energy
- Carl Jansen - Xcel Energy
- Robert Orrock - Great River Energy
- Donald Quist - Mo Valley
- Charles Sanocki - Xcel Energy
- Randy Smetak - City of Redwood Falls
- Rodney Werner - Mo Valley



### GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:



- Donovan Arvidson - Xcel Energy
- Brian Draayer - Xcel Energy
- Jeffery Heinks - Xcel Energy
- Robert Heublein - Mo Valley
- Chris Hicks - Xcel Energy
- Craig Kendall - Xcel Energy
- Kathleen Lowery - City of Bricelyn
- Scott Olson - Xcel Energy
- Arlo Petterson - Xcel Energy
- Rick Pomerence - Covanta Energy
- Bruce Rokala - Xcel Energy
- Patrick Thielen - Xcel Energy

## IN MEMORIAM

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our Brothers. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families & friends.

- Donald Houck - Retired NSP - Died 7/24/16
- John Leger - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 7/11/16
- John Sorsoleil - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 7/2016

Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you; it means learning to respect and use your own brains and instincts; hence, grappling with hard work.

Adrienne Rich

If I were asked to give what I consider the single most useful bit of advice for all humanity, it would be this: Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye, and say: "I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me."

Ann Landers